

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7066

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS TAIPEI 6129

USIAC

FOR: IOP/M, IEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION REPORT

1. FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF UPI'S FRANK W. BEATTY'S
INTERVIEW SEPTEMBER 17 WITH PREMIER CHIANG CHING-KUO
AS PROVIDED BY THE UPI TAIPEI BUREAU:

2. PREMIER CHIANG CHING-KUO SAID WEDNESDAY NATIONALIST
CHINA HAS THE ABILITY TO MANUFACTURE NUCLEAR WEAPONS,
BUT WILL NEVER DO SO.

3. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH UPI, PREMIER CHIANG ALSO SAID
NATIONALIST CHINESE NEITHER DESIRE NOR NEED AMERICAN
TROOPS TO DEFEND TAIWAN.

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4. "WE ADMIT WE HAVE THE ABILITY AND THE FACILITIES TO

MANUFACTURE NUCLEAR WEAPONS, BUT WE WILL NEVER
MANUFACTURE NUCLEAR WEAPONS," THE PREMIER SAID.

5. "THE REASON...IS VERY CLEAR," HE ADDED. "EITHER FOR
OUR OWN DEFENSE OR FOR A COUNTERATTACK AGAINST THE
CHINESE COMMUNISTS, THE ENEMY WE WILL ENCOUNTER ARE
PEOPLE FORCED BY THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS TO SERVE AS
SOLDIERS. AND THEREFORE WE SHALL NOT HURT OUR OWN
COMPATRIOTS WITH NUCLEAR WEAPONS."

6. THE PREMIER, WHO WORE A TRADITIONAL BLACK SYMBOL OF
MOURNING FOR HIS FATHER, THE LATE PRESIDENT CHIANG
KAI-SHEK, WHO DIED IN APRIL, ELABORATED ON THE SECURITY
SITUATION IN ASIA IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE FALL OF
INDOCHINA TO THE COMMUNISTS. HE SAID IT WAS NOT WISE
FOR THE UNITED STATES TO SEND AMERICAN TROOPS TO FIGHT
IN ASIA.

7. "THE SOUTHEAST ASIA DEBACLE IS A TRAGEDY BECAUSE SO
MANY PEOPLE HAVE LOST THEIR FREEDOM," HE SAID. "HOWEVER,
THIS DEBACLE STRENGTHENS THE IMPORTANCE OF NORTHEAST
ASIA. NOW THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, JAPAN AND THE
REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN) CONSTITUTE A CHAIN OF
DEFENSE WHICH IS IMPORTANT TO THE UNITED STATES.

8. "(BUT) WE DO NOT NEED AMERICAN TROOPS TO FIGHT FOR
US. WE WILL ONLY NEED MATERIAL AND SPIRITUAL SUPPORT
FROM THE UNITED STATES.

9. "IT WAS NOT WISE FOR THE UNITED STATES TO SEND
TROOPS TO FIGHT IN ASIA," HE SAID.

10. BUT THE PREMIER ADDED THAT SINCE THE UNITED STATES
HAS ALREADY STATIONED TROOPS IN SOUTH KOREA, HE SAW NO
NEED TO CHANGE THE SITUATION THERE.

11. THE PREMIER SAID THE EXPANSION OF THE COMMUNISTS IN
INDOCHINA RAISED THE PROSPECT OF FACTIONAL STRIFE AMONG
THE VARIOUS COMMUNIST IDEOLOGIES.

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12. "WE HAVE NOW FOUR COMMUNIST COUNTRIES IN SOUTHEAST
ASIA (CAMBODIA, NORTH VIETNAM, SOUTH VIETNAM AND LAOS)
AND WE ALSO HAVE FOUR COMMUNIST PARTIES WHO ARE
STRUGGLING AGAINST EACH OTHER. (THIS NEW SITUATION)
WILL ALSO INCREASE THE CONFLICTS BETWEEN THE CHINESE
COMMUNISTS AND THE RUSSIANS."

13. IN ANY EVENT, THE PREMIER SAID, NATIONALIST CHINA

IS CONFIDENT THAT IT CAN MEET ANY EVENTUALITY ON ITS OWN.

14. "WE HAVE STANDING TROOPS OF HALF A MILLION, BACKED UP BY 2.2 MILLION RESERVISTS," HE SAID. "WE HAVE ADEQUATE MANPOWER TO DEFEND OURSELVES WITHOUT ASKING FOR THE HELP FROM TROOPS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES."
CLARKE

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